

**DOE Recommendation – Technical Institute Facility applications**  
**April 4, 2008**

BOE Members,

This email has been built to provide you with the information you need to act on the proposed facility projects that are being proposed by three of our Tech Institutes. The purpose of this document is to summarize the recommendation that has been formed by the DOE in response to these applications.

The Department and the Housing Authority representatives have reviewed the three facility projects from the Technical Institutes. As we prepare for the teleconference Board meeting on Friday, I wanted to prepare a recommendation for the Board. Based on items listed below, I plan to recommend that the Board support the proposals from Mitchell Technical Institute and Lake Area Technical Institute. These projects have clearly been on the drawing board for quite some time and the Institute representatives from MTI and LATI are ready to proceed with their projects. At this time, I would recommend that the WDTI project receive further review. The Board could approve two of the projects and continue the dialogue on the WDTI project for potential action at a later date.

The reasons for this recommendation are listed below.

1. Based on the current market conditions, we currently lack the adequate financial resources to handle all three proposals at this time. The PDF file that is attached to this email illustrates the current concern regarding the affordability of all three projects.
2. Further discussion is needed to explore the joint funding (school/community) of the WDTI project and the relationship that would evolve with use of the facility and bonding funds in the future. WDTI has worked to create a community approach to the library facility but more discussion is needed to determine an appropriate amount that should be used from the bond fund versus the local investment in the project.
3. Further discussion is needed to explore the use of facility fees and bonding funds to support buildings such as libraries, bookstores and other facilities that are not directly related to an institute program. The Board may be very supportive of this approach, but further discussion and planning is necessary to determine the scope of current and future facility projects.

This recommendation will not rule out any future funding for the WDTI project. I would fully expect that the WDTI representatives will share their concerns regarding this recommendation and the need to move ahead on the WDTI project. As the DOE Secretary, I feel it is necessary for me to share my recommendation with the Board in advance of the meeting. If you have questions regarding this recommendation or if you are in need of additional information, please contact my office.

Rick Melmer  
Secretary – Department of Education